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Occupational Employment and Wages in Beaumont-Port Arthur, May 2013

Workers in the Beaumont-Port Arthur Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$20.34 in May 2013, 9 percent below the nationwide average of \$22.33, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were significantly higher than their respective national averages in 4 of the 22 major occupational groups, including architecture and engineering, and production. Fourteen groups had measurably lower wages than their respective national averages, including computer and mathematical; education training and library; and legal.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 5 of the 22 occupational groups, including installation, maintenance, and repair; production; and construction and extraction. Conversely, 13 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including business and financial operations; computer and mathematical; and office and administrative support. (See [table A](#) and [box note](#) at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Beaumont-Port Arthur Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2013

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	Beaumont-Port Arthur		United States	Beaumont-Port Arthur		Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%		\$22.33	\$20.34	*	-9
Management	4.9	3.7	*	53.15	46.94	*	-12
Business and financial operations	5.0	2.4	*	34.14	32.46	*	-5
Computer and mathematical	2.8	0.9	*	39.43	33.18	*	-16
Architecture and engineering	1.8	2.5	*	38.51	44.11	*	15
Life, physical, and social science	0.9	0.6	*	33.37	31.92		-4
Community and social service	1.4	0.8	*	21.50	19.99	*	-7
Legal	0.8	0.5	*	47.89	36.09	*	-25
Education, training, and library	6.3	5.6	*	24.76	20.77	*	-16
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	0.6	*	26.72	19.59	*	-27
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	5.1	*	35.93	30.84	*	-14
Healthcare support	3.0	2.2	*	13.61	12.28	*	-10
Protective service	2.5	3.2	*	20.92	19.99		-4
Food preparation and serving related	9.0	9.0		10.38	9.04	*	-13
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.2	2.7	*	12.51	10.86	*	-13
Personal care and service	3.0	NA		11.88	9.03	*	-24
Sales and related	10.6	10.5		18.37	15.98	*	-13
Office and administrative support	16.2	14.4	*	16.78	15.33	*	-9
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.0	*	11.70	19.43	*	66

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Beaumont-Port Arthur Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2013 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	Beaumont-Port Arthur		United States	Beaumont-Port Arthur		Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Construction and extraction.....	3.8	9.1	*	21.94	21.95		0
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	5.3	*	21.35	22.88	*	7
Production	6.6	10.1	*	16.79	24.23	*	44
Transportation and material moving.....	6.8	6.5		16.28	15.92		-2

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Beaumont-Port Arthur is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

* The percent share of employment or mean hourly wage for this area is significantly different from the national average of all areas at the 90-percent confidence level.

NA: estimate is not available.

One occupational group—production—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Beaumont-Port Arthur had 15,770 jobs in production, accounting for 10.1 percent of local area employment, significantly higher from the national share of 6.6 percent. The local average hourly wage for this occupational group was \$24.23, 44 percent above the national average of \$16.79.

With employment of 1,990, the occupation of petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers was among the largest within the production group, as were welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers (1,850) and first-line supervisors of production and operating workers (1,780). Among the higher paying non-supervisory jobs were petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers, as well as chemical equipment operators and tenders, with mean hourly wages of \$31.96 and \$30.78, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were laundry and dry-cleaning workers (\$11.79) and production workers' helpers (\$14.78). (Detailed occupational data for production workers are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of all occupations see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_13140.htm.)

Location quotients allow us to explore the occupational make-up of a metropolitan area by comparing the composition of jobs in an area relative to the national average. (See [table 1](#).) For example, a location quotient of 2.0 indicates that an occupation accounts for twice the share of employment in the area than it does nationally. In the Beaumont metropolitan area, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the production group. For instance, local petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers were employed at 40.8 times the U.S. average, the highest location quotient for this job among all U.S. metropolitan areas, while metal and plastic layout workers were employed at 23.0 times the national rate, the third highest ratio in the country. On the other hand, laundry and dry-cleaning workers had a location quotient of 0.9 in Beaumont, indicating that this particular occupation's local and national employment shares were similar.

These statistics are from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey, a federal-state cooperative program between BLS and State Workforce Agencies, in this case, the Texas Workforce Commission.

Note

OES wage and employment data for the 22 major occupational groups in the Beaumont-Port Arthur Metropolitan Statistical Area were compared to their respective national averages based on statistical significance testing. Only those occupations with wages or employment shares above or below the national wage or share after testing for significance at the 90-percent confidence level meet the criteria.

Note: A value that is statistically different from another does not necessarily mean that the difference has economic or practical significance. Statistical significance is concerned with the ability to make confident statements about a universe based on a sample. It is entirely possible that a large difference between two values is not significantly different statistically, while a small difference is, since both the size and heterogeneity of the sample affect the relative error of the data being tested.

Technical Note

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey is a semiannual mail survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments in the United States. Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands are also surveyed, but their data are not included in the national estimates. OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Forms are mailed to approximately 200,000 sampled establishments in May and November each year for a 3-year period. May 2013 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected in May 2013, November 2012, May 2012, November 2011, May 2011, and November 2010. The overall national response rate for the six panels is 75.3 percent based on establishments and 71.6 percent based on employment. The sample in the Beaumont-Port Arthur Metropolitan Statistical Area included 1,841 establishments with a response rate of 71 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm.

The OES survey provides estimates of employment and hourly and annual wages for wage and salary workers in 22 major occupational groups and 821 detailed occupations for the nation, states, metropolitan statistical areas, metropolitan divisions, and nonmetropolitan areas. In addition, employment and wage estimates for 94 minor groups and 458 broad occupations are available in the national data. OES data by state and metropolitan/nonmetropolitan area are available from www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcst.htm and www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcma.htm, respectively.

The May 2013 OES estimates are based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system and the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Information about the 2010 SOC is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/soc and information about the 2012 NAICS is available at www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm.

Area definitions

The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

The **Beaumont-Port Arthur Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** includes Hardin, Jefferson, and Orange Counties in Texas.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/regions/southwest/home.htm. Answers to frequently asked questions about the OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm. Detailed technical information about the OES survey is available in our Survey Methods and Reliability Statement on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/oes/2013/may/methods_statement.pdf. Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request – Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Beaumont-Port Arthur Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2013

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Production occupations	15,770	1.5	\$24.23	\$50,400
First-line supervisors of production and operating workers	1,780	2.6	40.70	84,650
Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers	(5)	(5)	15.10	31,410
Structural metal fabricators and fitters	240	2.6	20.42	42,470
Fiberglass laminators and fabricators	(5)	(5)	13.19	27,440
Team assemblers	(5)	(5)	15.77	32,790
Assemblers and fabricators, all other	130	0.4	12.00	24,960
Bakers	(5)	(5)	10.29	21,400
Butchers and meat cutters	110	0.7	13.69	28,470
Food processing workers, all other	40	0.9	10.47	21,780
Forging machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	40	1.6	22.23	46,230
Cutting, punching, and press machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	110	0.5	16.81	34,970
Grinding, lapping, polishing, and buffing machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	80	1.0	17.19	35,750
Machinists	700	1.5	22.42	46,630
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers	1,850	4.5	20.43	42,490
Heat treating equipment setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	60	2.5	21.81	45,370
Layout workers, metal and plastic	360	23.0	21.85	45,440
Plating and coating machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal & plastic	(5)	(5)	16.36	34,020
Metal workers and plastic workers, all other	30	1.2	17.68	36,770
Printing press operators	40	0.2	13.78	28,670
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers	200	0.9	11.79	24,530
Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials	60	0.9	8.84	18,390
Cabinetmakers and bench carpenters	(5)	(5)	15.98	33,240
Sawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, wood	80	1.7	11.99	24,940
Power distributors and dispatchers	40	2.8	41.37	86,040
Power plant operators	30	0.7	24.97	51,940
Water and wastewater treatment plant and system operators	160	1.2	19.34	40,240
Chemical plant and system operators	890	19.6	31.25	65,000
Gas plant operators	70	4.6	33.65	69,980
Petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers	1,990	40.8	31.96	66,480
Plant and system operators, all other	80	5.7	35.01	72,830
Chemical equipment operators and tenders	960	13.5	30.78	64,030
Separating, filtering, clarifying, precipitating, and still machine setters, operators, and tenders	80	1.6	29.36	61,060
Crushing, grinding, and polishing machine setters, operators, and tenders	(5)	(5)	12.98	27,000
Mixing and blending machine setters, operators, and tenders	170	1.3	21.71	45,150
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	1,000	1.8	25.57	53,180
Dental laboratory technicians	40	0.8	15.04	31,280
Ophthalmic laboratory technicians	40	1.0	16.17	33,630
Packaging and filling machine operators and tenders	(5)	(5)	16.28	33,850
Coating, painting, and spraying machine setters, operators, and tenders	410	4.0	15.85	32,960
Painters, transportation equipment	110	2.0	19.90	41,400
Photographic process workers and processing machine operators	(5)	(5)	8.69	18,080
Helpers-production workers	940	1.9	14.78	30,750
Production workers, all other	(5)	(5)	10.07	20,950

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

- (1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Beaumont-Port Arthur MSA, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_13140.htm.
- (2) Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately. Estimates do not include self-employed workers.
- (3) The location quotient is the ratio of the area concentration of occupational employment to the national average concentration. A location quotient greater than one indicates the occupation has a higher share of employment than average, and a location quotient less than one indicates the occupation is less prevalent in the area than average.
- (4) Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the hourly mean wage by a 'year-round, full-time' hours figure of 2,080 hours; for those occupations where there is not an hourly mean wage published, the annual wage has been directly calculated from the reported survey data.
- (5) Estimates not released.